

**"THANKS TO FIRE"**

Former Physician Says It Is Kansas "Pen's" Alibi.

Dr. Axford Reviews Biennial Report of State Prison.

LIKE CENTRAL BRANCH WRECK

Such Reads Brick Yards Statement, Says the Doctor.

"On Behalf of Square Deal, I Protest," He Complains.

The Kansas penitentiary has been through a "hard season" according to a rather humorous review of the Nineteenth Biennial report of that institution recently written by Dr. Sherman L. Axford former penitentiary physician now residing in Leavenworth.

Dr. Axford established an enviable professional reputation for himself among Kansas physicians familiar with his work as penitentiary physician. He introduced a series of "operating days" when surgeons from surrounding cities came to assist in a large number of operations on inmates of the prison, correcting defects which for the most part had originated before their commitment. The last year of the Axford administration showed a total of but 3 deaths in the penitentiary while in the next year it jumped to 8. Under the present administration the prison medical department has been largely devoted to the study of mental peculiarities of penitentiary inmates.

In his review of the Biennial report Dr. Axford says:

"I have received through the United States mails a booklet. On the title page were these words: Nineteenth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Prison. A better title would be—

"OUR ALIBIS:

"A Symposium on How We Failed to Deliver the Goods."

"The most frequent alibi is the fire. I honestly think that the prison management are as thankful for that fire as the national administration is for the war in Europe. It is a shame to work one small alibi so constantly, so persistently and so heartlessly. It isn't right and the matter should be reported to the humane society."

"The warden says the reason that they fell down on their coal output is because they didn't have so many miners. The report shows ex-Warden Coddington got out 61,145 tons of coal in 1913 working days, and Warden Bolton got 41,574 tons out of 32,655 days work. Take a pencil and see who got the most coal per man."

"The report from the brick yard reads like a report of a wreck on the Central Branch. I am unable to figure out why the superintendent didn't make brick, unless the letter he wrote for repairs got lost in the mail."

"The farmer would sure have had one fine crop if it had rained—but it didn't. They would have had some pork, too—but the cholera. They would have cleared the island—but the fire (bless the fire) made it impossible to get the men."

"The doctor has a fine report from the standpoint of diet; but he fails to tell what he has been doing. There isn't one word as to the medical treatment of prisoners, what they were treated for or by whom. He does not tell us how much time was lost on account of illness, injury, etc. Nary a word. He puts both years together and handles them as a lump sum. Under the previous administration—which is included in the first year of the report, there were three deaths; in the second year, under the present administration, there were nine who died. Perhaps no one should feel aggrieved for it would not be reasonable to expect the present physician to put up his nine against the three; especially when the three were from over 500 men taken for food and the nine from less than 500 inmates. The doctor records 12 deaths in the biennial and the record clerk records 13. Is it possible that somebody killed one man and failed to report it to the doctor? In behalf of a square deal I protest. The board ought to make a ruling to require that all deaths be reported to the doctor. If I didn't tackle the chairman's report in its entirety, but read down to where he had 'found it a man's job.' I knew he had not resigned, so passed the rest up. However, I think I'll go back and see if he reported the 'holy war.'"

"If you didn't get one of these 'Compilation of Alibies,' then get one; you will learn something."

MINERS' STRIKE ENDS

[Continued from Page One.]

The communication says that in view of the communication of the president in appointing a federal commission: "We deem it the part of wisdom to accept his (the president's) suggestion and to terminate the strike."

Beginning of the End.

Final efforts on the part of the United Mine Workers to settle the strike, the communication states, began with the acceptance on September 16, of President Wilson's proposal of a three year truce. This action was taken as a condition precedent to the settlement of the strike. The president's proposal, "We were of the opinion," says the report, "that such action on our part would speedily terminate the strike not thinking for an instant that the operators would refuse the president's plan of settlement, especially in the light of the impartial enforcement of the labor and mining laws of Colorado and the appointment of an industrial commission by the president to see that such laws were being enforced. The president's proposal, however, was not accepted by the operators to accept the plan of settlement proposed by the president and their insistence on the continuation of a system which stands for industrial chaos and anarchy, they forfeited the position, of every right thinking, law-abiding American citizen."

"When the operators refused to accept the president's proposal we entertained the hope that the president would enforce his proposition by governmental action. After waiting for more than two months for some measure to be adopted by the president that would terminate the strike and restore the mining industry as to what his final action might be, we concluded to arrange a meeting with the president, and accordingly we met with him at the White House on Thursday, November 19. He told us that he was not legally advised that he could not take over the Colorado coal mines and operate them under governmental supervision and thus force a settlement of the strike in accordance with the peace plan which he had submitted. He expressed deep regret that the operators had seen fit to disregard his wishes in the matter and informed us he would do everything he could legally to bring about a settlement of the controversy."

After quoting the communication of President Wilson on December 1, announcing the appointment of a federal mediation commission to deal with the coal strike, the communication states that the operators and employees in the Colorado coal fields the report says:

In Deference to the President.

"In view of this urgent request coming as it does from the chief executive of the nation, we deem it the part of wisdom to accept his suggestions and terminate the strike. In our opinion, the wage the strike would not mean additional gain to our members."

"If the operators reject the good offices of this commission appointed in good faith by the president of the United States, upon their shoulders will rest the responsibility of any future trouble in the mining fields of Colorado. In taking this position and in terminating this strike, we believe we are doing the best thing possible for the men."

"We have spent an enormous amount of money in waging this struggle for justice and fair play in the mining fields of Colorado but have felt that it was spent in as noble a cause as any could be. It is with feelings of pain and sorrow that we recall the massacre of our men, women and children at Ludlow. The sacrifice made, the conditions endured, the blood shed, all in the history of labor struggles in America. All lovers of liberty and believers in fair play between man and man must admire the heroic struggle of the Colorado miners against the great wealth and influence of Rockefeller and his associates. May not this terrible conflict teach the citizens of Colorado and the nation that 'government by gunmen' must cease."

Efforts for Peace.

"We have made every overture for peace since the beginning of this conflict. We have repeatedly sought a conference with the mine owners only to be denied a hearing. We have repeatedly offered arbitration only to be ridiculed and in the end to our men, women and children were murdered before the people of the nation came to understand that the coal strike in Colorado was not a local or state issue but an issue of vital importance involving civil as well as industrial rights."

"We feel that the president has so recognized the bill for the recognition of the truth of the claims we have made and that with the termination of this strike by the appointment of a permanent commission of fair-minded men, we shall find that the old order of oppression and tyranny will be no more and that public opinion will compel the large operators of Colorado to deal justly with our people."

"We recognize no surrender and shall continue to propagate the principles of our humanitarian movement until we shall render assistance to the best of our ability."

In conclusion the report says that the subcommittee of the international executive board now attending the district convention has given "discretionary power to meet the exigencies of any situation concerning the termination of the strike that may arise."

Chicago Grain Market.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—WHEAT—Close: December, 82½c; May, 85c.

CORN—January, 51½c; May, 51½c.

LARD—January, 9.77; May, 10.02.

TOBACCO—January, 9.75; May, 10.00.

STOCKS—January, 9.75; May, 10.00.

GRAIN—January, 9.75; May, 10.00.

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